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AP-NORC poll: Many Americans resuming pre-virus activities

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Many Americans are relaxing precautions taken during the COVID-19 pandemic and resuming everyday activities, even as some worry that coronavirus-related restrictions were hastily lifted, a new poll shows.

The poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds that majorities of Americans who were regularly doing so before the pandemic say they are returning to bars or restaurants, traveling and attending events such as movies or sports.

Just 21% are very or extremely worried about a COVID-19 infection in their inner circle — the lowest level since the pandemic began — and only 25% are

highly concerned that the lifted restrictions will lead to additional people being infected in their community. Andrea Moran, a 36-year-old freelance writer and mother of two boys, said she feels both relief and joy at the chance to resume "doing the little things," such as having drinks on a restaurant patio with her husband.

"Honestly, I almost cried," Moran said. "It's such a feeling of having been through the wringer, and we're finally starting to come out of it."

Still, 34% of Americans think restrictions in their area have been lifted too quickly, while somewhat fewer — 27% — say they were not lifted quickly enough.

Continued on next page



In this June 5, 2021, file photo, crowds gather on L Street Beach in the South Boston neighborhood of Boston.

Associated Press

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In this June 15, 2021, file photo, people arrive at Universal Studios in Universal City, Calif.

Associated Press

Continued from Front

About 4 in 10 rate the pace of reopening about right. The way Americans approached their daily lives suddenly changed after COVID-19 spread through the U.S. in early 2020. Following the advice of health officials and governments, people isolated in their homes — either alone or with families — to avoid exposure to the virus, which has sickened more than 33 million people and killed 600,000 people in the U.S. During the height of the pandemic, restaurants, movie theaters and stores either closed or continued operating with limited occupancy; church services, schools and government meetings went virtual; and many employers made working from home an option or a requirement. Mask wearing in public became the norm in most places, with some states and cities making it mandatory. The emergence of the vaccine has helped slow down rates of infection and

death, allowing state and local economies to reopen and leading Americans to return to activities they once enjoyed. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advised last month that vaccinated Americans don't have to wear a mask in most scenarios, indoors or out. The latest CDC data shows 53% of all Americans — 65% of those 18 and older — have received at least one dose of the vaccine. According to the AP-NORC poll, American adults who have not yet rolled up their sleeves for the shot remain hesitant to do so. Just 7% of those who have not been vaccinated say they definitely will get a COVID-19 vaccine, and 15% say they probably will. Forty-six percent of Americans who have not been vaccinated say they will definitely not get a vaccine, and 29% say they probably will not. Young adults, Americans without a college degree, white evangelicals, rural Americans and Republicans are

most hesitant to get vaccinated. The poll finds many Americans are still wearing masks and taking precautions to avoid contact with other people, but the percentage of those doing so is down significantly from just a few months ago. In late February, 65% said they were always wearing a mask around people outside their households. Now, just 37% say so, though 19% say they often wear one. Forty percent of Americans say they are extremely or very likely to wear a mask when participating in indoor activities outside their homes, while just 28% say the same about outdoor activities. Aaron Siever, 36, of New Market, Virginia, said he and his wife have consistently worn masks and taken other precautions, including getting vaccinated. But Siever said virus-related restrictions were not lifted quickly enough, lamenting that some precautions were politicized and caused an "inherent

panic." "I think with masks being worn and people getting vaccinated, I think we could have opened a little earlier," said Siever, who maintains the grounds of Civil War battlefields in Virginia. "We started focusing on the politics of reopening, rather than the health." Now that most states have lifted restrictions, the poll finds about two-thirds of Americans who used to travel at least monthly say they will do so in the next few weeks. About three-quarters of frequent restaurant or bar-goers before the pandemic say they will now return. A year ago, only about half said they would travel or go to restaurants if they could. Likewise, more are returning to activities such as visiting friends and family, seeing movies or concerts, attending sporting events and shopping in-person for nonessential items. In Cookeville, Tennessee, Moran said her family still regularly wears masks in public, especially when

they are indoors or around a lot of people. Both she and her husband have been vaccinated. Moran said she has eaten at outdoor restaurants, but she is avoiding indoor dining. "Even if the air conditioning circulation is good, I just don't feel comfortable right now going inside, where there's a lot of people in fairly close proximity who I don't know," Moran said. Moran said her family avoided nonessential travel during the height of the pandemic, canceling a trip to see her brother in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. But last weekend, the family traveled for the first time in more than a year — a roughly 3 1/2-hour road trip to Asheville, North Carolina, to visit a childhood friend. "I felt a little bit nervous just because being around people is such a surreal thing after so long," Moran said. "I was really excited and I was thrilled for my kids that they were able to get out and get back to some semblance of normality." □

Study: Texas bases lead Army posts in risk of sexual assault

By **LOLITA C. BALDOR**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Female soldiers at Army bases in Texas, Colorado, Kansas and Kentucky face a greater risk of sexual assault and harassment than those at other posts, accounting for more than a third of all active-duty Army women sexually assaulted in 2018, according to a new Rand Corp. study.

The study, released Friday, looked at Army incidents, and found that female soldiers at Fort Hood and Fort Bliss, both in Texas, faced the highest risk, particularly those in combat commands or jobs such as field artillery and engineering. And units with more frequent deployments to war also saw higher risk. Other bases with high risk were Fort Campbell in Kentucky, Fort Carson in Colorado and Fort Riley in Kansas, said the study which reviewed assault data from previous years.

Rand's study provides greater detail on the rates of sexual assault and misconduct across the Army, a chronic problem that military leaders have been struggling to combat. And it comes a year after the killing of Spc. Vanessa Guillén, who was missing at Fort Hood for about two months



In this July 9, 2013, file photo, traffic flows through the main gate past a welcome sign in Fort Hood, Texas.

before her remains were found late last June.

Guillen was killed by a soldier, who her family says sexually harassed her, and who killed himself as police sought to arrest him. Her death put a spotlight on violence and leadership problems within the Army. The Rand report also confirmed one of the Army's conclusions about the impact of command climate, finding a lower risk of sexual misconduct in units with more positive supervisor

scores.

The Fort Hood violence prompted an independent review which found that military leaders were not adequately dealing with high rates of sexual assault and harassment at the post. Christopher Swecker, the chairman of the review panel, told Congress that the base leaders were focused on military readiness and completely neglected the sexual assault prevention program.

As a result, he said, lower-

level unit commanders didn't encourage service members to report assaults, and in many cases were shaming victims.

According to the Rand study, the risk of assault for women at Fort Hood was nearly a third higher than the average risk faced by all women in the Army. Overall, Rand said that the risk across the Army varied widely depending on the female soldiers' base, unit, career field, age, and even whether they were at posts

with a higher number of civilians.

For example, female soldiers in medical or personnel jobs have the lowest risk, while those in field artillery face the highest risk. Field artillery jobs were among some of the last Army combat specialties opened to women — coming in 2015. Other jobs that lagged behind were infantry, armor and special operations.

James A. Helis, director of the Army Resilience Directorate, said the study "sheds light on the environmental and occupational factors that contribute to the risk of sexual assault and sexual harassment for our soldiers and, in turn, will help inform future prevention and response efforts."

The report used earlier Rand studies as well as data from Defense Department anonymous surveys in 2016 and 2018 that seek information about sexual assaults and harassment that may or may not have been formally reported. And it compared that to other military personnel and demographic data.

Soldiers assigned to the Washington, D.C. region, meanwhile, have some of the lowest risk totals, with the Pentagon showing the lowest of all installations listed. □

Associated Press

U.S. Mint to issue quarters honoring notable American women

Poet and author Maya Angelou, America's first woman in space and a revered Cherokee Nation leader are among female trailblazers whose likenesses will appear on the U.S. quarter.

The new four-year American Women Quarters Program celebrates women's accomplishments and contributions to the United States' development and history, according to the U.S. Mint.

Under the program, the mint will issue up to five new designs each year from 2022 to 2025. Honorees will be from a variety of fields and from ethnically, racially and geographi-

cally diverse backgrounds, the mint says.

Those chosen for the first year are:

— Angelou, celebrated poet and memoirist

— Wilma Mankiller, the Cherokee Nation's first female principal chief

— Adelina Otero-Warren, a leader in New Mexico's suffrage movement

— Sally Ride, the first U.S. woman in space

— Anna May Wong, the first Chinese American Hollywood film star

Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. and Mankiller's husband, Charlie Soap, expressed gratitude for Mankiller's inclusion in the program, say-

ing her influence and leadership made her a fitting choice. Mankiller became one of the United States' most visible Native American leaders during her 10 years as chief of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, from 1985 to 1995. She died in 2010. "We thank the U.S. Mint for recognizing Wilma and the other recipients for such an honor," Soap told Indian Country Today. "Wilma was a humble, spiritual, great leader whose leadership was not only for Cherokee people but for all women and races. The real value of this coin is the inspiration it brings to Indian people and women everywhere." □



In this July 19, 1985, file photo, Wilma Mankiller, the first woman elected chief of the Cherokee Nation, poses in front of the tribal emblem at the Cherokee Nation in Oklahoma.

Associated Press

Declaration of Juneteenth holiday sparks scramble in states

By JULIE CARR SMYTH

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) —

Congress and President Joe Biden acted with unusual swiftness this week in approving Juneteenth as a national holiday. That shifted the battle to the states, where the holiday faces a far less enthusiastic response.

Nearly all states recognize Juneteenth in some fashion, at least on paper. But most have been slow to move beyond proclamations issued by governors or resolutions passed by lawmakers. So far, only nine states have designated it in law as an official paid state holiday — Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Texas, Virginia and Washington. All but Texas, where the events of the original Juneteenth took place, acted after the killing of George Floyd last year.

This year alone, legislation to make Juneteenth a paid state holiday died in Florida and South Dakota and is stalled in Ohio, all states controlled by Republicans. But even in Maryland, where Democrats control the Legislature, a Juneteenth bill passed one chamber only to die in the other.

The effort recalls the drawn-out battles over recognizing Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the last time the federal government designated a new holiday. That legislation, finally passed in 1983, scheduled the holiday to begin three years later. It set off bitter debates in the states over whether to enact their own holidays.

Only a handful of states headed into Thursday's signing of the federal Juneteenth law with the paid holiday on the books to be celebrated in 2021. The governors of Washington, Illinois and Louisiana, by contrast, all signed more recent laws that were set to kick in for 2022, when June 19 falls on a Sunday.

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards closed state offices for a half-day Friday, only a few days after he signed Juneteenth legisla-



In this June 17, 2021, file photo, President Joe Biden hands a pen to Rep. Barbara Lee, D-Calif., after signing the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, in the East Room of the White House in Washington. From left, Rep. Barbara Lee, D-Calif., Rep. Danny Davis, D-Ill., Opal Lee, Sen. Tina Smith, D-Minn., obscured, Vice President Kamala Harris, House Majority Whip James Clyburn of S.C., Sen. Raphael Warnock, D-Ga., Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, Rep. Joyce Beatty, D-Ohio, obscured, Sen. Ed Markey, D-Mass., and Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Texas.

Associated Press

tion, and Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker changed his state's start date to 2021.

In another twist, many states have laws that automatically recognize all federal holidays — even those not named in state statute. Such was the case in Ohio, where Republican Gov. Mike DeWine issued a Juneteenth statement late Thursday and closed state offices in the manner of a hastily called school snow day. West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice also declared Juneteenth a state holiday at a last-minute virtual press conference. Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont issued his Juneteenth proclamation Friday.

Ohio state Sen. Hearcel Craig, a Columbus Democrat who is Black, said Friday that codifying Juneteenth in state law remains essential. He is sponsoring a Juneteenth bill that passed the Ohio Senate unanimously last session, but time ran out for its consideration in the House. Republicans control both of Ohio's legislative chambers.

"My hope and expectation is that Ohio will choose to be a leader in the quest to honor Black history and the movement toward a more equitable world," Craig said. "And that's not hyperbole. ... It concerns not

only African-Americans but all Americans. Put simply, Black history is American history."

North Carolina law caps the number of state holidays at 12, meaning Juneteenth could only be added if another holiday was dropped. Other states said Friday that whether Juneteenth becomes a paid holiday depends on union negotiations.

In Mississippi, Democratic state Rep. Bryant Clark has filed bills to make Juneteenth a state holiday for about 15 years. All have stalled.

Clark said Friday that he will keep trying. He noted that Mississippi legislators took four years to create a state holiday honoring King after the federal holiday was established. In 1987, Mississippi legislators revised a holiday named for Confederate General Robert E. Lee that had been in place for decades, creating a joint holiday honoring both Lee and King.

Two other Mississippi lawmakers said Friday that they plan to file a bill to eliminate Confederate Memorial Day as a state holiday and replace it with Juneteenth.

"Sometimes, progress is extremely slow," said Clark, a member of the Legisla-

tive Black Caucus. Several communities in Mississippi already hold Juneteenth celebrations. One is the capital city of Jackson, where the population is more than 80% Black.

Minnesota has recognized the third Saturday in June as Juneteenth since 1996, but the statute only obligates the governor to issue a proclamation each year honoring the observance. That's a common situation in the U.S., where the holiday is sometimes called Emancipation Day.

Calls by Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, a Democrat, to make it an official state holiday have failed to gain traction so far in the Minnesota Legislature, the only one in the nation where Democrats control one chamber and Republicans control the other.

Hawaii is one of only three states left that has not marked the holiday at all. A bill recognizing Juneteenth was signed Wednesday, a day ahead of the federal legislation. It did not create a paid state holiday, however.

South Dakota does not officially recognize the holiday, but Gov. Kristi Noem has issued a proclamation celebrating it. The governor does not have the power to make it an official

state holiday — that must be done through the Legislature. A bill to recognize it as a working holiday fell a handful of votes short of passing this year.

It was defeated by an unusual coalition of Democrats who felt the day should be recognized as a full-fledged holiday, rather than a working holiday, and conservative lawmakers who opposed recognizing the holiday at all.

Vaney Hariri, a Black business owner who organized a march after Floyd's death, said that vote showed the entrenched attitude of many lawmakers who "would turn down a day off rather than celebrate your freedom from pain and captivity."

Arizona dragged its feet for years on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, until it became the only state that did not have some sort of holiday inspired by the slain civil rights leader.

That long delay cost Arizona a Super Bowl and millions of dollars in tourism revenue from canceled conventions and other events. It also inspired a boycott by singer Stevie Wonder and a protest song by Public Enemy called "By the Time I Get to Arizona." Gov. Bruce Babbitt, a Democrat, issued an executive order in 1986 declaring Martin Luther King Jr. Day a state holiday. Babbitt's Republican successor, Evan Mecham, rescinded the order a year later, saying Babbitt exceeded his authority.

Mecham's action led to years of divisive political maneuvering, including a ballot measure that ended in defeat for King holiday supporters, before Arizona voters ultimately approved the holiday in 1992.

Warren H. Stewart Sr., pastor of the Institutional Baptist Church in Phoenix, helped lead a grassroots campaign to establish Arizona's King holiday. But he said he did not rejoice when Biden signed the Juneteenth law. He fears it will distract from legislation on vital issues such as voting rights and police reform. □

North Korea's Kim vows to be ready for confrontation with U.S.

By **HYUNG-JIN KIM**
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un ordered his government to be prepared for both dialogue and confrontation with the Biden administration — but more for confrontation — state media reported Friday, days after the United States and others urged the North to abandon its nuclear program and return to talks. Kim's statement indicates he'll likely push to strengthen his nuclear arsenal and increase pressure on Washington to give up what North Korea considers a hostile policy toward the North, though he'll also prepare for talks to resume, some experts say.

During an ongoing ruling party meeting Thursday, Kim analyzed in detail the policy tendencies of the U.S. under President Joe Biden and clarified steps to be taken in relations with Washington, the Korean Central News Agency said. It did not specify the steps. Kim "stressed the need to get prepared for both dialogue and confrontation,



In this photo provided by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un speaks during a Workers' Party meeting in Pyongyang, North Korea, Thursday, June 17, 2021.

Associated Press

especially to get fully prepared for confrontation in order to protect the dignity of our state" and ensure national security, it said. In 2018-19, Kim held a series of summits with then-President Donald Trump to discuss North Korea's advancing nuclear arsenal. But the negotiations fell apart after Trump rejected Kim's

calls for extensive sanctions relief in return for a partial surrender of his nuclear capability. Biden's administration has worked to formulate a new approach on North Korea's nuclear program that it describes as "calibrated and practical." Details of his North Korea policy haven't been publicized, but U.S.

officials have suggested Biden will seek a middle ground between Trump's direct meetings with Kim and former President Barack Obama's "strategic patience" to curb Kim's nuclear program. Earlier this week, leaders of the Group of Seven wealthy nations issued a statement calling for the complete

denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and "the verifiable and irreversible abandonment" of North Korea's nuclear and missile programs. They called on North Korea to engage and resume dialogue. Sung Kim, the top U.S. official on North Korea, is to visit Seoul on Saturday for a trilateral meeting with South Korean and Japanese officials. His travel emphasizes the importance of three-way cooperation in working toward complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, the State Department said. Kim Jong Un has recently threatened to enlarge his nuclear arsenal and build high-tech weapons targeting the U.S. mainland if Washington refuses to abandon its hostile policy toward North Korea. In March, Kim's military performed its first short-range ballistic missile tests in a year. But North Korea is still maintaining a moratorium on long-range missile and nuclear tests in an indication that Kim still wants to keep prospects for diplomacy alive. □

U.S.-Canada border restrictions extended until July 21

By **ROB GILLIES** Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Border restrictions on nonessential travel with the United States will be extended until July 21, officials said Wednesday, as Canada works to get a higher percentage of Canadians fully vaccinated. Public Safety Minister Bill Blair said the move has been made in coordination with the U.S. There are growing calls in the U.S. to open the Canada-U.S. border for nonessential travel like tourism, but less than 20% of Canadians are fully vaccinated. "We're still seeing cases across the country and we want to get them down," Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said. "At the same time we also know we have to hit our targets of 75% vaccinated with the

first dose and at least 20% vaccinated with the second dose before we can start loosening things up because even a fully vaccinated individual can pass on COVID-19 to someone who is not vaccinated." Trudeau said they need to ensure communities to which fully vaccinated travelers return to are not at risk. "Even though they are protected from hospitalization the people around them might not be," Trudeau said. The border between Canada and the U.S. remains closed to all nonessential travel. The restrictions were announced in March, 2020 in the early months of the pandemic and have been extended every month since. Even some provinces in Canada remain closed to

each other. Ontario and Quebec only opened this week for non essential travel between the two provinces. And Atlantic Canada will be closed to Canadians from elsewhere in Canada well into July. The Canadian government expects to have enough vaccine delivered for 80% of eligible Canadians to be fully vaccinated by the end of July. About 70% of eligible Canadians have had at least one dose of vaccine and second doses are ramping up this month and next. Canada delayed administering a second dose to get more people a level of protection with the first dose faster and as the country waited for more supply to arrive. Canada only started getting U.S. manufactured vaccines in May as the U.S. didn't allow for exports until



Joel Gardiner, left, embraces his new bride Mandi Gardiner as officiant Brooke Bakogeorge steps away after marrying the couple at the arch separating the U.S. from Canada at Peace Arch Historical State Park Tuesday, June 8, 2021, in Blaine, Wash. Associated Press

then. Canada had largely been getting vaccines from Europe until Pfizer doses began arriving from Pfizer's Michigan plant in May. Blair noted the government plans to release details on Monday about fully vaccinated Canadians who

return to the country. The Trudeau government has said it anticipates fully vaccinated Canadian citizens who test negative for COVID-19 will be exempt from two weeks of quarantine when returning to the country in early July. □

U.N. re-elects Antonio Guterres as secretary-general

By EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

The U.N. General Assembly unanimously elected Antonio Guterres to a second term as secretary-general on Friday, giving him another five years at the helm of the 193-member organization at a time a deeply divided world faces numerous conflicts, the growing impact of climate change, and a pandemic still circling the globe.

Guterres, the only candidate for the U.N.'s top post, said he was "humbled and energized" by the support of the world's nations and said the "driving theme" of his second term will be "prevention in all its aspects — from conflicts, climate change, pandemics to poverty and inequality."

Ambassadors in the assembly chamber burst into applause as Assembly President Volkan Bozkir announced Guterres' re-election by "acclamation," without a vote. Just before the announcement, Estonia's U.N. Ambassador Sven Jurgenson, the current Security Council president, read a resolution adopted



United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres arrives for the G7 meeting at the Carbis Bay Hotel in Carbis Bay, St. Ives, Cornwall, England, Saturday, June 12, 2021.

Associated Press

by the 15-member council recommending Guterres for a second term.

Under the U.N. Charter, the General Assembly appoints the secretary-general on the recommendation of the Security Council.

The council said this year it would only consider applicants backed by a U.N. member state and Guterres was the only candidate

nominated by a U.N. member, his home country Portugal where he previously served as prime minister. The country's current president, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, was in the assembly chamber to watch the event.

Immediately after his re-election, Guterres took the oath of office and delivered an address urging

U.N. member nations "to do everything we can to overcome current geopolitical divides and dysfunctional power relations."

"There are too many asymmetries and paradoxes," he said. "They need to be addressed head on."

"What we are living through today in terms of mistrust is, I hope, an aberration," the U.N. chief said, "but it can-

not become the norm." Guterres pledged to "give it my all to ensure the blossoming of trust between and among nations, large and small, to build bridges and to engage relentlessly in confidence building" — and to "seek to inspire hope that we can turn things around, that the impossible is possible."

Guterres said the world is facing "a number of dramatic fragilities," singling out the pandemic, climate change, lawlessness in cyberspace and the geopolitical divide, and stressing that this must be addressed by bringing together the world's nations and strengthening multilateralism.

"This is a time to understand that each country alone can do nothing... that countries must come together," he said. "To rebuild trust is the way to make the impossible possible. If we remain divided, the impossible will remain impossible and the fragilities of this world will present themselves into bigger suffering for the people, especially the most vulnerable of the vulnerable." □

Palestinians clash with Israel police at Jerusalem holy site



Israeli security forces take positions during clashes with Palestinians in front of the Dome of the Rock Mosque at the Al Aqsa Mosque compound in Jerusalem's Old City, Friday, June 18, 2021.

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Palestinians protested after Friday prayers at the Al-Aqsa mosque compound in Jerusalem and briefly clashed with Israeli police, leaving three demonstrators wounded.

A series of far more violent

clashes at the site in April and May helped ignite last month's 11-day Gaza war. The site is the third holiest in Islam and the holiest for Jews, who refer to it as the Temple Mount because it was the location of the biblical temples.

It has frequently been the scene of Israeli-Palestinian violence. This time, the police refrained from entering the compound and appeared to act with more restraint, possibly on the orders of Israel's newly sworn-in government. The Red Crescent emergency service said two Palestinians were wounded by rubber bullets and a third by a stone that was thrown.

Young Palestinians could be seen throwing stones at police stationed at an entrance to the compound, who fired stun grenades and rubber-coated bullets. Hundreds demonstrated after Friday prayers in response to a rally held by Jewish ultranationalists on Tuesday in which dozens had chanted "Death to Arabs" and "May your village burn." The Palestinians pro-

tested against insulting Islam's Prophet Muhammad, after online video showed some of the participants in the Tuesday march denigrating him.

Tensions have remained high since an informal cease-fire halted the Gaza war on May 21. Tuesday's rally was held to celebrate Israel's capture of east Jerusalem, including the Old City and its holy sites, during the 1967 war. Police forcibly cleared Palestinians from the route of the march and provided security as many in the crowd made racist chants.

In Gaza, meanwhile, activists mobilized by the territory's militant Hamas rulers have sent incendiary balloons across the frontier into Israel, setting fields and farmland ablaze. Israel launched airstrikes on

Wednesday and Thursday, targeting what it said were Hamas facilities.

There were no casualties from the strikes, but the violence risked unraveling the truce brokered by Egyptian mediators, who have been meeting with both Israel and Hamas to solidify it.

Israel swore in a new government last weekend, ending Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's 12 years in power. It relies on a fragile coalition of parties from across Israel's political spectrum, and is expected to try and sideline the Palestinian issue as much as possible.

Israel captured the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem in the 1967 war, territories the Palestinians want for a future state. The peace process ground to a halt more than a decade ago. □

Mexican elderly lose work as grocery baggers, protest

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The coronavirus pandemic and changing consumer habits threaten to put an end to a decades-old practice of allowing elderly people in Mexico to earn extra income as grocery store baggers.

Baggers over 60 had expected to return to stores last month as pandemic restrictions eased in Mexico City. But Walmart de Mexico, the country's biggest retailer, announced this week that they wouldn't be allowed back.

The retail chain said Mexico City's ban on plastic bags and the pandemic meant customers no longer want other people touching their

groceries.

"Due to the health emergency, we have seen that our customers want to avoid third parties having contact with their purchases," Walmart de Mexico said in a statement. "Added to this is the fact that under current law to protect the environment, we have stopped giving free, single-use plastic bags."

"For this reason, our customers now bring their own reusable bags and they have become used to packing their own purchase," the statement continued.

Elderly baggers have held a series of protests over the last two weeks outside grocery stores and govern-

ment offices, holding signs reading "We Want to Work!" "It's not fair," former grocery bagger Maria Guadalupe Garcia told the Telediario news program. "I don't have anything other than this."

Lourdes Cuca put it this way: "I need to work, because it is my emotional support." The "jobs" — they are considered "volunteers," not company employees — are hardly lucrative. Some customers give them tips of about one percent of the grocery bill or less, with many just leaving five or ten cents.

In some places in Mexico, teenagers are baggers, but in others the elderly



In this Dec. 26, 2013 file photo, a family leaves a local Walmart in Mexico City.

Associated Press

Nicaraguan government pursues NGO in widening crackdown

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — Nicaraguan authorities ordered the capture of a former education minister and a businessman Thursday as the government's crackdown continued to expand beyond leaders of the political opposition. The Attorney General's Office said in a statement that arrest orders were issued for Humberto Belli, who served in the administration of former President Violeta Chamorro, and Gerardo Baltodano, owner of Café Soluble, for not appearing to provide statements as scheduled.

Baltodano is the brother of retired Gen. Alvaro Baltodano, who served in President Daniel Ortega's government as the director for the Free Trade Zone Corporation. Belli is the brother of well-known poet and novelist Gioconda Belli.

Both Belli and Baltodano had served on the board of the nongovernmental Nicaraguan Foundation for Economic and Social Development, or FUNIDES, which is under investigation. The foundation's former executive director Juan Sebastián Chamorro was arrested earlier this month on charges of crimes against the state.



A wall that is defaced with graffiti with one message that once read in Spanish: "Resist Nicaragua", was overpainted by another that now reads "Long live the Nicaraguan revolution", in Managua, Nicaragua, Thursday, June 17, 2021.

Associated Press

Earlier Thursday, prosecutors announced that a judge had ordered the freezing of the bank accounts of Belli and Baltodano among others tied to the foundation and prohibited them from leaving the country. They are being investigated for alleged "financial operations derived from illicit activities."

Gioconda Belli said via Twitter that police had searched her brother's home Thursday. In recent weeks, the government has arrested 16 people, including 13 leading members of the political opposition, two former employees

of the Violeta Chamorro Foundation and Luis Rivas Anduray, president of Production Bank (Banpro).

Among them were four pre-candidates for the presidency. Elections are scheduled for Nov. 7 and Ortega is running for a fourth consecutive term.

The United States government has stepped up sanctions against Ortega's inner circle and on Wednesday the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States approved a resolution condemning the arrests and calling for the prisoners' immediate release. □

were given spots under a program arranged many years ago with the government's National Institute for the Elderly. Walmart said it had notified the Institute in December that the arrangement would not be renewed.

But the baggers only got word of the change in May, when Mexico City loosened pandemic restrictions amid a drop in case numbers. That is because the elderly baggers — whose age puts them at higher risk

for severe COVID-19 — had not been working at the stores since March 2020, and many had only recently contemplated the possibility of going back to work. It's not just Mexico City; in early June, the legislature in the northern state of Tamaulipas approved a resolution urging that fully vaccinated elderly adults be allowed to return to work as grocery baggers, "to obtain some more income for themselves and their families." □



Taste limitless possibilities at Infini, where Chef Urvin Croes and his team explores without boundaries and steps with both feet outside of the box to create his most sensational dishes yet. This meticulously designed restaurant located inside Blue Residences on scenic Eagle Beach is a chef's table concept with limited seating where diners are able to interact with the staff and other guests alike throughout the evening.

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LOCAL



Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa: Father's Day Dinner fit for a king

EAGLE BEACH — Treat dad to an epic Father's Day dinner this Sunday June 20th at Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa. The covered patio of Ike's Bistro will be your home for the family gathering, your host to this special evening and your comfort zone to indulge in culinary highlights. It is all about the feel this night and the resort has everything you need for a fabulous feast. Just gaze over the pool and palm trees and let Aruba's breeze take you away to a journey with the delicacies of Chef Sandro Herold.

Ike's Bistro and The chophouse at Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa have an amazing Father's Day Dinner featuring three courses, an amuse with a glass of bubbles and coffee or tea included. Chef Herold and his team will make dad feel like a hero!

There is a special Vegan dinner for those who love vegan and you must know that Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa is known on the island for its high standard of vegan gastronomy.

Father is First

Let's see what we have got for you tomorrow. Our three course dinner jumps off with a choice between a Mediterranean Shrimp Grilled black tiger shrimp served on potato crème, topped with porcini mushroom sauce and Parmesan cheese or a Classic Beef Carpaccio, Thinly sliced filet Mignon topped with refreshing Arugula lettuce, shaved parmesan cheese, roasted pine nuts, tomato, extra virgin olive oil and balsamic reduction or a Corn and Chicken Chowder which is a thick and creamy chowder soup that is made with tender white chicken and corn, served with tomato bruschetta.

For the main course we have a fantastic Father's Day Steak and Shrimp Tower: Filet mignon grilled to perfection, topped with sautéed spinach, portabella mushrooms, grilled shrimp skewer and sauce hollandaise, served with Yukon mashed potato. If you prefer the best of the ocean go for the Seafood Casserole offering fish, shrimp, calamari, scallops and mussels in a creamy garlic lobster sauce, served over a bed of fettuccine pasta & melted cheese straight out of the oven. Are you a chicken lover, choose the Chicken Caprese, a corn-fed chicken breast topped with buffalo mozzarella and ripe plum tomato served over al dente pesto risotto. We cannot let you go home without tasting the amazing Lemon Curd Tartlet, a light and creamy lemon custard on an almond crust, served with berries and merengue. Indulge with a cup of tea or coffee and smile, be happy, and feel blessed to have the opportunity to enjoy life on Aruba with your beloved one or beloved ones beside you.

Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa is welcoming all dads and families to come and experience!



The restaurant naturally lends itself to social distancing as it is open-air, set perfectly by the tropical pool. Ike's Bistro and The Chophouse have an established name on the island for its excellent food and highly-rated service level. Come over to celebrate Father's Day and create a lifetime memory. ☐

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Follow Aruba's Election results 2021



ORANJESTAD - During election night, follow a unique broadcast of the preliminary election results on the home page of our official government websites www.government.aw or www.government.aw.

On June 25, the elections for the members of the States of Aruba will take place. On election night we will broadcast the results of the main polling station on the home page of our website.

Visitors can follow the results per polling station and per polling district: the most recent standings are immediately visible and the statistics are made available via graphs. Furthermore, the seat allocation will be calculated automatically.

On the Election Informa-

tion section you will find information about Aruban suffrage, the organization of the elections, the distribution of seats, the voting procedures and other practical information and novelties.

On the Election 2021 webpage you will find information about the election agenda, the participating political parties, the electoral register and election evening. We invite you to follow the results of the Aruban elections on the night of June 25, 2021 via these sites. □

Money Supply Expanded Summary of the Monthly Bulletin of March 2021

Monetary developments

Compared to February 2021, money supply increased in March 2021 by Afl. 38.9 million to Afl. 4,858.2 million, resulting from an expansion in net domestic assets (+Afl. 42.4 million) and a decrease in net foreign assets (-Afl. 3.6 million).

The increase in the domestic component of money supply was caused by a surge in domestic credit (+Afl. 51.9 million). The non-credit related balance sheet items decreased by Afl. 9.4 million. The rise in domestic credit was attributed to an expansion in the net claims of the banking sector on the public sector (+Afl. 67.7 million) and a contraction in the claims of the banking sector on the private sector (-Afl. 15.8 million). The growth in the net claims of the banking sector on the public sector was caused by decreases in government deposits (-Afl. 67.6 million). The decline in the claims of the banking sector on the private sector was the result of lower loans to enterprises (-Afl. 7.7 million), consumer credit (-Afl. 5.9 million), and housing mortgages (-Afl. 2.2 million). Net foreign assets of the banking sector decreased, due to a net sale of foreign exchange

of Afl. 216.2 million to the public, mainly associated with the payments for goods imports, other investment, and other services. These were almost completely offset by a net purchase of foreign exchange of Afl. 212.5 million, mostly related to foreign exchange revenue from tourism exports, and net transfers from foreign accounts.

Inflation

The consumer price index (CPI) for March 2021 noted a 1.1 percent decrease year over year (YOY) compared to a 1.9 percent decrease (YOY) for February 2021. The main contributors to this decrease were "Recreation and Culture", "Clothing and Footwear", and "Food and Non-alcoholic beverages". The 12-month average inflation rate was -2.3 percent in March 2021, compared to -2.2 percent in February 2021.

Government

Total government revenue amounted to Afl. 70.6 million in March 2021, Afl. 11.5 million less than the same month of the previous year. The decline in government revenue resulted from decreases in tax revenue (-Afl. 8.6 million) and

non-tax revenue (-Afl. 2.9 million).

The reduction in tax revenue was caused primarily by decreases in income from wage tax (-Afl. 6.2 million) and turnover tax (-Afl. 5.1 million). In contrast, income from profit tax increased by Afl. 5.7 million.

Tourism

The number of stay over visitors amounted to 48,967 in March 2021, which is 6,125 more visitors (+14.3 percent) than in March 2020. This growth was due to increases in the North American market and the Latin American market of 6,191 visitors (+16.6 percent) and 56 visitors (+3.0 percent), respectively. In contrast, the European market decreased by 172 visitors (-6.3 percent).

The expansion in the North American market resulted from more arrivals from the United States (+9,476 visitors or +27.9 percent). The increase in the Latin American market was driven by more arrivals from Colombia (+772 visitors or +177.5 percent). The decline in the European market was primarily caused by less arrivals from the Netherlands (-155 visitors or -6.8 percent). □

History of fishing in Aruba

ORANJESTAD — Fishing has been a family tradition for ages in Aruba. Our ancestors used to fish for a living. Even though nowadays you don't see them often we still have some passionate fishermen on the island that go out every day in search for fish to feed their families and serve our local market. One of these fishermen is Gregory Wernet.

The so-called Continental Bank between Aruba and the opposite coast reaches a depth of about 650 feet. The sea is very rich in fish here. Since the time of the indigenous native people fish and other sea creatures such as turtles, octopus squids, conch and many type of crustaceans have formed a means of subsistence for the native Aruban inhabitants. Especially along the west coast of the island where the fishing grounds are settlements of fishermen. Until the arrival of the oil industry Aruban fishermen could supply Aruba's wants.

As a source of income, however, fishing did not amount too much. In the beginning of the 1900's approximately 160 people earn their living in this branch of this industry. Rancho, which stands for a shed, nowadays east Oranjestad, was the head quarter and remains the fishermen's settlement. Sa-



vaneta, Noord, Santa Cruz all had their fishermen's villages. At a rough estimate there were about a hundred small fishing boats during that time.

The Arubans were mainly engaged in coastal fishing, using rowing-boats or small sailing-boats, and lines or dragnets and canisters in shallow water. When fishing with deep-sea lines just over the bottom of the sea the boat is kept in place by means of a piece of rock serving as an anchor. The two most important species of fish by far caught in this manner are the pargo or red snappers and a variety of groupers like the mero,

jeanpao and the wowo di boyo.

Cruising off the coast the Aruban fisherman patiently waits for a fish willing to snap at the bait on the drag-line, in nets and traps. Veritable giants are sometimes caught. Barracudas weigh from 9 to 44 pounds and measure from 3 to almost 7 feet. The king-fish has a weight from 22 to 44 pounds; the moclat may tip the scales at 155, whilst garfish, having a length of nine feet, weigh over 132 pounds.

Most fish caught is used for their own consumption, to feed their families and some are being sold in the

market to local restaurants.

Fisherman Gregory Wernet
Gregory Wernet is a well-known fisherman from Santa Cruz. His father taught him fishing when he was a small child. Gregory has two sons, Jordan and Jordanny, which he taught fishing too, when they were only 3 years old and he takes them fishing with him. Fishing has been a family tradition for quite a long time and even his grandson Willvion of 7 years old is following his grandfather steps. This is the sixth generation of fishermen in their family.

They go deep sea fishing. There they catch red snapper, grouper and amberjack. They usually fish for 15 hours a day, but now due to the covid-19 measurements they go fishing from 5 in the morning until 8 o'clock at night or even sometimes from 8 at night till 5 in the morning. The day before they prepare all their fishing tools such as the Lines, lures, spears, and load their boat with fishing reels, batteries, fill the gasoline tank, lights and some food and beverages. For bait he uses sardines, squid and the small fish known in Aruba as piskechi. The have two boats they use for fishing. 'Virgen del Valle' which is parked at the pier by the Seaport and 'Padrot' which they have at home.

The fish they catch they take home to their families and they also sell it to their clients. Gregory is proud to be a fisherman. It is a honest and humble job but with it he is able to feed his family even during hard times. It is a very dangerous job and you have to spend many hours on the sea, waiting patiently and risking your life while fighting a big fish and big waves but the adrenaline it brings with it but also just sitting there listening to the sound of the waves and enjoying the marvelous view that nature has to offer is all worth it. □



Source: Etnia Nativa

3 international travel ideas for your summer trip

By **SALLY FRENCH** of **Nerd-Wallet**

So you're ready to hit the skies for an international flight after more than a year of COVID-19 lockdowns, quarantines and restrictions, but where can you go? Some countries are reopening to Americans, but the degree of reopening varies.

Some countries will let you in, but only if you agree to a multiday quarantine. Other countries require a negative COVID-19 test even if you're vaccinated, which will add extra items to your pre-departure to-do list.

These locations are among the least complicated to get into and are largely embracing American tourists this summer:

1. MEXICO

Mexico has always been one of the most convenient countries for Americans to visit because of the short flights. Now, it's among the countries with the fewest restrictions for entry: According to the U.S. Embassy in Mexico, travelers do not need a negative COVID-19 test and there is no requirement to provide proof of vaccination.

Instead, you'll need to fill out a form at the *Vuela Seguro* website to complete a quick but mandatory health questionnaire, either upon arrival in Mexico or up to 12 hours before your



In this Friday, March 19, 2021 file photo, an airliner lands at Tampa International Airport in Tampa, Fla.

arrival. After completing the questionnaire, you'll receive a personal QR code. Screenshot this QR code and save it to your phone for easy access as you'll need to show it before immigration processing in Mexico. Save yourself some time by filling it out in advance and you'll walk right past all the other passengers scrambling to fill it out at the airport.

2. THE BAHAMAS

Visitors traveling to the Bahamas who are fully vaccinated with approved vaccines and have passed the

two-week immunity period are exempt from COVID-19 testing requirements.

If you haven't yet been vaccinated, you can still visit, but you must obtain a negative COVID-19 PCR test no more than five days before arrival. You need to upload vaccination proof or a negative test result to the Bahamas travel health site, as well as apply for a Bahamas Travel Health Visa, which costs \$40 for U.S. visitors.

Once you're there, there are a few restrictions, including curfews between

10 p.m. and 5 a.m. on Nassau and Paradise Island, and between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. on Grand Bahama Island. While you're permitted to roam around your resort during those hours, you can't be out on the town.

If the Bahamas isn't the perfect fit for you, consider one of the other Caribbean island nations, as many have similarly easy access rules.

3. THE EUROPEAN UNION

The European Union announced in May that it would welcome fully vac-

inated travelers who have received EU-approved vaccines without needing to take a test or quarantine.

Individual countries will create systems to check vaccination status, and member states will set their own requirements. Some countries are using what's called an EU Digital COVID Certificate for travel clearance. The certificates are expected to become available in all EU member states as of July 1. An EU spokesperson told media outlets that the certificate system may soon be available to U.S. citizens, but that decision is up to individual countries for now.

More EU countries will open as the summer progresses. But for now, popular destinations like Spain, Greece and Germany are open for U.S. tourists who can prove they've been vaccinated. Unvaccinated children should also be allowed in when traveling with vaccinated parents but may need a negative test in place of vaccination. If you're eyeing a specific EU country for your summer travel, check the U.S. Embassy website for entry requirements.

WHAT ABOUT RETURNING TO THE U.S.?

While these countries may let you in, don't discount your return trip home. □

Associated Press

Boeing's newest version of the 737 Max makes first flight

SEATTLE (AP) — Boeing's newest version of the 737 Max jetliner completed its first test flight Friday in a move that the company hopes will signal improving fortunes for its most important plane.

A few hundred employees watched the plane take off from Renton, Washington. As is typical for a first test flight of a new plane, the only people on board were the two pilots, Jennifer Henderson and Jim Webb.

The pilots flew for about 2 1/2 hours over Washington state and did a touch-and-go maneuver at an

airport near Moses Lake, Washington, before returning to land at Boeing Field in Seattle, about 7 miles (11 kilometers) from where they left.

The Max 10 is a slightly larger version of Max jets that are already flying. It is designed to seat up to 230 passengers and compete with the A321neo from European rival Airbus.

Chicago-based Boeing expects to begin delivering Max 10s to airlines in 2023. Max jets get better fuel mileage than previous versions of Boeing's venerable 737. Airlines began using the plane in 2017, but

Max 8 and Max 9 planes were grounded worldwide for nearly two years after crashes in October 2018 and March 2019 killed a total of 346 people.

U.S. regulators cleared the way for Max jets to resume flying late last year after Boeing made changes, including overhauling flight-control software that played a role in the crashes. This spring, about 100 new Max jets were idled for several weeks because of an unrelated problem with electrical grounding of cockpit instruments.

The grounding of Max jets and reduced demand



The final version of the 737 MAX, the MAX 10, passes other 737 MAX planes as it takes off from Renton Airport in Renton, Wash., on its first flight Friday, June 18, 2021.

Associated Press

for planes because of the pandemic pushed Boeing

Co. to an \$8.4 billion loss last year. □

CROSSWORD

By **THOMAS JOSEPH**

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 - 12 Shortly, in poems
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Yesterday's answer

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39						40				

6-19

A X Y D L B A A X R
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

6-19

CRYPTOQUOTE

Y A C X S X F E X K S V O Q Y S V S F

K G P P O K K . Q O L K X K S O E P O X K

S V O I O V X P B O W F G Y L L X I O X E .

— C X B B C L Y Z B O W

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I WRITE WHEN SOMETHING STICKS IN MY CRAW. WRITING IS A COMPULSION - OR AN ITCH. — HISAYE YAMAMOTO



A roofer works on a new roof in a housing development while the sun beats down on him as the heat wave continues Thursday, June 17, 2021, in Phoenix.

Associated Press

EXPLAINER: What's behind the heat wave in the American West?

PHOENIX (AP) — Much of the American West has been blasted with sweltering heat this week as a high pressure dome combines with the worst drought in modern history to launch temperatures into the triple digits, toppling records even before the official start of summer.

Record daily highs were seen this week in parts of Arizona, California, New Mexico, Montana, Wyoming and Utah. Phoenix, which is baking in some of the U.S. West's hottest weather, hit a record-breaking 118 degrees (48 Celsius) Thursday and was expected to reach 116 degrees (46 Celsius) Friday and Saturday.

"Very dangerous record breaking heat should continue today across the deserts with well above normal highs," the National Weather Service's Phoenix staff wrote on Facebook. "A very good day to stay indoors."

WHY IS THE AMERICAN WEST SO HOT THIS WEEK?

The heat comes from a high pressure system over the West, a buckle in the jet stream winds that move across the U.S. and vast swaths of soil sucked dry by a historic drought, said Marvin Percha, a senior meteorologist for the agency in Phoenix.

He and other scientists say

the heat wave is unusual because it arrived earlier and is staying longer than in most years.

"June last year, things seemed pretty normal," noted Park Williams, a University of California, Los Angeles, climate and fire scientist. "The record-breaking heat waves came in August and September." But with such an early heat wave this year, "this could be the tip of the iceberg," Williams said.

WHAT ROLES DO DROUGHT AND CLIMATE CHANGE PLAY?

A two-decade-long dry spell that some scientists refer to as a "megadrought" has sucked the moisture out of the soil through much of the Western United States. Researchers said in a study published last year in the journal Science that man-made climate change tied to the emission of greenhouse gases can be blamed for about half of the historic drought. Scientists studying the dry period that began in 2000 looked at a nine-state area from Oregon and Wyoming down through California and New Mexico and found only one other that was slightly larger. That drought started in 1575, a decade after St. Augustine, Florida, was founded and before the Pilgrims landed

on Plymouth Rock in 1620. The hot weather can be tied to the drought drying out the landscape. Normally, some of the sun's heat evaporates moisture in the soil, but scientists say the Western soil is so dry that instead that energy makes the air even warmer.

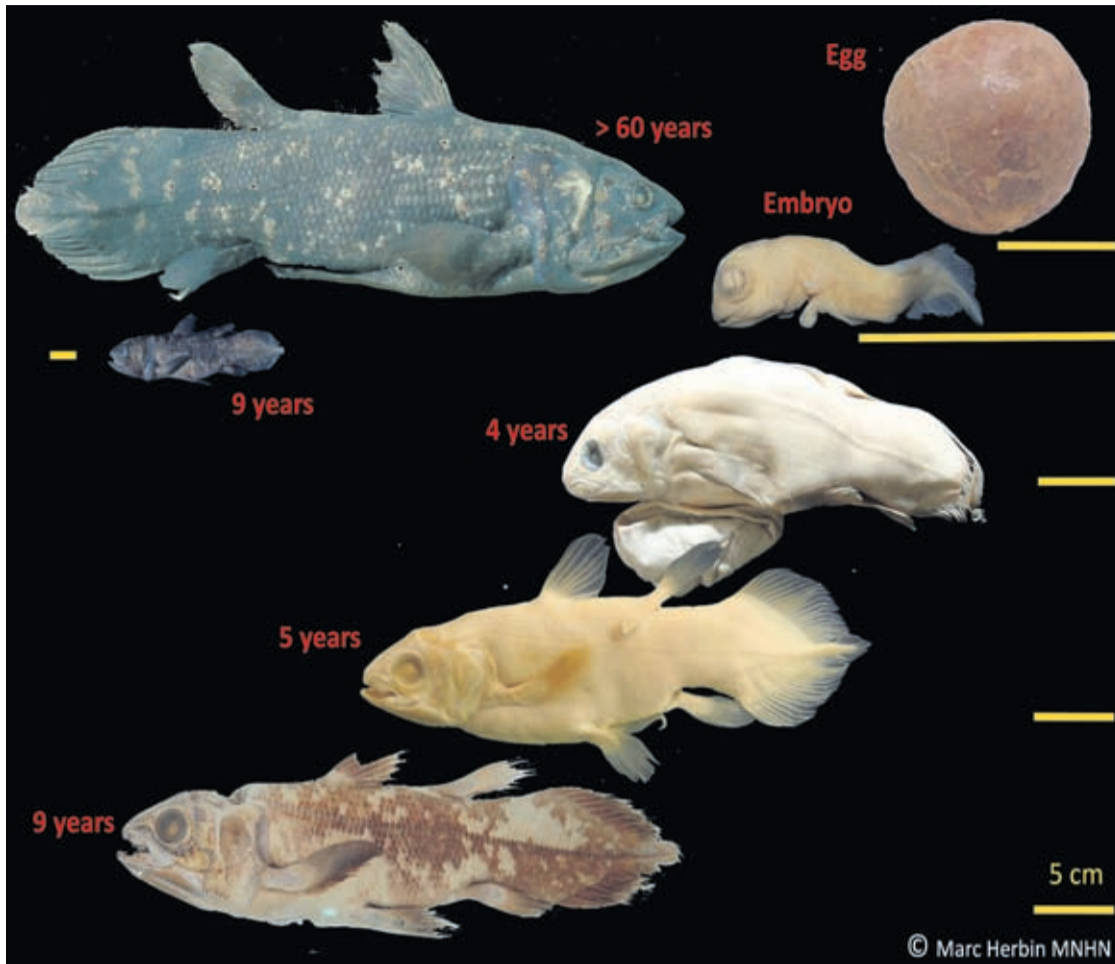
"When the soil is wet, heat waves aren't so bad," said Williams, who has calculated that soil in the western half of the nation is the driest it has been since 1895. "But if it's dry, we are under extreme risk."

HOW DO RECENT WILDFIRES FIGURE INTO THIS?

Scientists say the wildfires that have erupted in recent days have been fed by the excessive heat across the region. Climate change contributes to the drought conditions and makes trees and shrubs more likely to catch fire.

At least 14 new wildfires broke out this week in Montana and Wyoming as the record heat sparked an early start to the fire season. Firefighters also battled blazes in Arizona and New Mexico. "From a fire potential standpoint, what is capable this year, it is certainly much more severe than we've seen in the past," U.S. Department of Agriculture fire meteorologist Gina Palma said in a climate briefing Thursday. □

Weird 'living fossil' fish lives 100 years, pregnant for 5



This image provided by Marc Herbin shows the development stages of the coelacanth fish. Associated Press

BY SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

The coelacanth — a giant weird fish still around from dinosaur times — can live for 100 years, a new study found.

These slow-moving, people-sized fish of the deep, nicknamed a "living fossil," are the opposite of the live fast, die young mantra. These nocturnal fish grow at an aching slow pace. Females don't hit sexual maturity until their late 50s, the study said, while male coelacanths are sexually mature at 40 to 69 years. And maybe strangest of all, researchers figure pregnancy in the fish lasts about five years.

Coelacanths, which have been around for 400 million years, were thought extinct until they were found alive in 1938 off South Africa. Scientists long believed coelacanths live about 20 years. But by applying a standard technique for dating commercial fish, French scientists calculated they actually live close to a century, according to a study in Thursday's Current Biology.

Coelacanths are so endangered that scientists

can only study specimens already caught and dead. In the past, scientists calculated fish ages by counting big lines on a specific coelacanth scale. But the French scientists found they were missing smaller lines that could only be seen using polarized light — the technique used to figure out the age of commercial fish.

Study co-author Bruno Ernande, a marine evolutionary ecologist at France's marine research institute,

said polarized light revealed five smaller lines for every big one. The researchers concluded the smaller lines better correlated to a year of coelacanth age — and that indicated their oldest specimen was 84 years old.

Using the technique, the scientists studied two embryos and calculated the largest was five years old and the youngest was nine years old. So, Ernande said, they figured pregnancy lasts at least five years in

coelacanths, which have live births.

That five-year gestation is "very strange" for fish or any animal, said Scripps Institution of Oceanography's Harold Walker, who wasn't part of the research.

Even though coelacanths are unrelated genetically and show wide evolutionary differences, they age slowly like other dwellers of the deep, sharks and rays, Ernande said. "They might have evolved similar life histories because they are sharing similar type habitats," he said.



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Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

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Q&A: Abdul-Jabbar talks new documentary, MLK, social justice

By **JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.**
AP Entertainment Writer

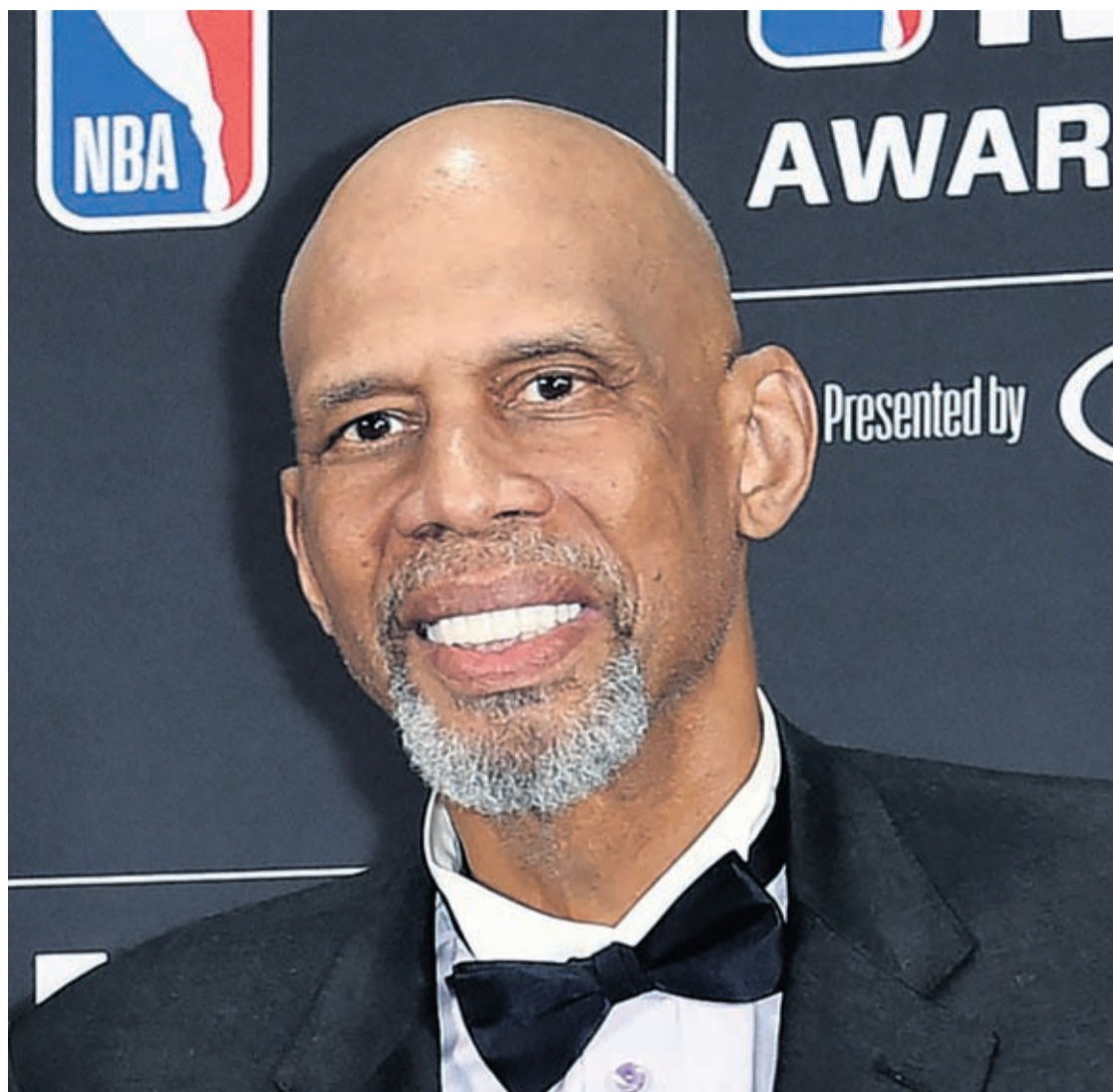
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is an NBA legend, but the man known for his trademark skyhook shot has also devoted his life advocating for equality and social justice.

Abdul-Jabbar will take another step in his activism walk as an executive producer and narrator of the documentary "Fight the Power: The Movements That Changed America," which premieres Saturday on the History Channel. The one-hour documentary explores the history of protests that shaped the course for justice in America.

"Fight the Power" examines the labor movement of the 1880s, women's suffrage and civil rights along with the LGBTQ+ and Black Lives Matter initiatives. It also features footage from Abdul-Jabbar's personal experiences when he covered one of Martin Luther King Jr.'s news conferences at age 17 and attended the famous 1967 Cleveland Summit, where prominent Black athletes such as Bill Russell and Jim Brown discussed Muhammad Ali's refusal to serve in the Vietnam War.

Abdul-Jabbar said co-executive producer Deborah Morales was adamant about the documentary needing to include all groups impacted by "bigotry and discrimination." His pursuit toward social justice for marginalized people prompted the NBA to create an award bearing his name last month.

In a recent interview, Abdul-Jabbar spoke with The Associated Press about the importance of project, his unforgettable conversation with King, and how Emmett Till and James Baldwin



Kareem Abdul-Jabbar poses in the press room at the NBA Awards in Santa Monica, Calif. on June 25, 2018.

were catalysts to his social justice journey.

Remarks have been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: Why does the documentary focus on several different movements?

ABDUL-JABBAR: For me, it is trying to show that what Black Americans must deal with has been experienced by other marginalized groups. All of us at one time or another have been targeted by the dominant group. So, we must understand that all of us are in the same boat and we have to stick up for the rights of every marginalized group, not just the ones that we're in that causes controversy, but to look at other issues."

AP: When did you first re-

alize people of color were treated unfairly in this country?

ABDUL-JABBAR: It started when I was 8 years old. That's how old I was when Emmett Till was murdered. And I didn't understand it. I asked my parents to explain it. They didn't have the words. I was like "Where do I live? Why am I a target here?"

AP: How did you find some clarity?

ABDUL-JABBAR: I was in the eighth grade. I was about 13 years old, and I read James Baldwin's "The Fire Next Time." That explained it all to me. It gave me an idea of what I had to do and what Black Americans had to do in order to get

out from underneath all of this oppression.

AP: You are a champion on the basketball court and voice of inclusivity. Did you envision this path for yourself, even after your Hall of Fame hoops career?

ABDUL-JABBAR: I never really saw myself as a leader in all of it. I was someone who spoke out. I had enough nerve (and was) crazy enough to speak out about things. If we don't talk about the issues, they don't get dealt with. So, somebody has to go out there and speak. You remember all the controversy behind LeBron (James) saying, "Shut up and dribble is a lot of B.S." You have to just get to that point where you can say that and have people understand what it means.

AP: Which personal experience highlighted in the doc stands out to you the most?

ABDUL-JABBAR: When I was 17 and I got to interview Dr. King. That was incredible. Just to exchange some words with him. But to un-

derstand what his message actually meant, I never really compared it side by side with what Malcolm X was talking about. When you do that, you find out actually that they had the two different approaches to the same end: freedom, justice and equality for all Americans. Equality, that's what it should be about.

AP: What's your biggest takeaway from the documentary?

ABDUL-JABBAR: It's a series of steps forward, but there's also some backsliding and a lot of attempts to move everything backwards. We had to deal with what people were really talking about, making America great again. It wasn't about being great. It was about being ruled by a certain group of people. They thought that was great. But our country should be ruled by the American people. And all of us have a vote in. All of us have a voice. And we have to use our voices and our votes in a righteous way.

AP: Are there other topics you would like to explore in the future?

ABDUL-JABBAR: I'm hoping I can do a more documentary style piece on the Underground Railroad. There's a dramatic piece on right now that's very well done. But we should get into the details and let America understand what it was all about, because it's an interesting story.

AP: What would be your angle?

ABDUL-JABBAR: Some of the people involved that you would never, ever be considered to be heroes of the Underground Railroad. For example, what do you know about Wild Bill Hickok? When he was a teenager, he and his father and uncle help escaping slaves get to Canada. He lived in central Illinois and the escaping slaves would go from the Mississippi River up to Chicago and southern Wisconsin, get on a boat, go across Lake Michigan. When they got to Canada, they were free. There's a whole lot of stories like that. □

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Celtics send Kemba Walker, 16th pick to Thunder for Horford

BOSTON (AP) — The Celtics are bringing Al Horford back, trading point guard Kemba Walker to Oklahoma City for the five-time All-Star on Friday in Brad Stevens' first major move since he moved from the Boston bench to the front office. Boston will also send the No. 16 overall draft pick and a 2025 second-rounder to the Thunder and receive 7-footer Moses Brown and a 2023 second-round pick in return.

Oklahoma City now holds 19 first-round draft picks over the next seven years. Horford returns to Boston and gives the Celtics the frontcourt presence they've lacked since he left two seasons ago. The 6-foot-9 forward was a member of the NBA All-Defensive team with the Celtics in 2017-18 while also posting the best assist numbers of his career.

Stevens coached Horford for three seasons and says he played a "critical role" while in Boston.

"His ability to elevate teammates with his experience and leadership make for a great addition," Stevens said. "We also want to wel-



In this May 25, 2021, file photo, Boston Celtics guard Kemba Walker (8) looks for an outlet during the first quarter of Game 2 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series against the Brooklyn Nets in New York.

Associated Press

come Moses to Boston. He is a promising young player."

Walker joins a team that finished with the second-worst record in the West last season but showed potential with Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, who led the Thunder with 23.7 points per game, and Lu Dort, who averaged 14 points and was one of

the league's best defensive guards.

Walker, 31, is guaranteed more than \$73 million over the next two seasons. But after helping the Celtics reach the Eastern Conference finals in the NBA bubble last season the four-time All-Star he was limited by knee injuries to 43 games in 2021; he missed the last two

games of the first-round playoff loss to the Brooklyn Nets.

Walker's departure means Boston will rely more heavily on All-Stars Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown for scoring. Without further moves, it would also leave Marcus Smart and Payton Pritchard as the team's main options at point guard.

But swapping his salary for Horford's will save the Celtics \$9 million.

"Kemba is a true professional and a great teammate and player," Stevens said. "I want to thank him for his tremendous impact, and the positive contribution he's made both to the Celtics and the city of Boston." After playing his first nine seasons in Atlanta, Horford signed with Boston as a free agent in 2016 and led the team to the conference finals in his first two seasons. But he opted out after three seasons to go to Philadelphia, then the 76ers flipped him to the Thunder after one year.

Horford, 35, averaged 14.2 points and 6.7 rebounds this season, but he played just 23 games before Oklahoma City shut him down in late March to take a look at younger players — including Brown.

"Thank you to ... the entire Thunder organization for their professionalism during my time in Oklahoma City," Horford tweeted. "While it was short, it was first class all the way and me and my family are extremely thankful and appreciative." □

EXPLAINER: What is overtraining syndrome in sports?

By The Associated Press

Olympic champion Simone Manuel stunningly failed to advance out of the semifinals in the 100-meter freestyle at the U.S. swimming trials. Then she revealed why: The 24-year-old sprinter was diagnosed with overtraining syndrome.

Manuel said she'd never heard of it. Her mother searched online to find information about the myriad symptoms Manuel was experiencing. She first felt off in January and by March "my body completely crashed," she said. "Just walking up the stairs to the pool, I was gassed," Manuel said. The first Black woman to win an individual swimming gold medal at the Olympics noticed her times were getting slower. She initially tried

to modify her training. When that didn't ease her symptoms, she completely stopped for three weeks. But for elite-level swimmers whose training requires them to be in the water daily, it was disastrous.

WHAT IS OVERTRAINING SYNDROME?

It's an exercise-induced muscle and nerve condition that causes pain, swelling and sometimes disability. Also known as burnout, it is thought to be the result of the physical and emotional stress of training. Anyone can develop the condition, but it's more common in athletes under 30 who participate in activities that involve repetitive impact. It's not life-threatening and usually doesn't cause permanent damage if you seek appropriate treatment.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

Fatigue, depression, decreased performance, slower or faster than normal heart rate, loss of motivation, insomnia, irritability, agitation, weight loss, sore muscles and anxiety. Pain can begin consistently after a certain time, distance or intensity of exercise, and progressively worsen as exercise continues. Pain can become less intense or stop within a short time of stopping the exercise.

WHAT ARE THE RISK FACTORS?

Age. The kind of exercise you do, especially repetitive impact activities like running and swimming. Working out too intensely or too frequently.

HOW IS IT DIAGNOSED?

It is a clinical diagnosis, which is made on the basis of medical signs



Simone Manuel is seen before the women's 100 freestyle during wave 2 of the U.S. Olympic Swim Trials on Thursday, June 17, 2021, in Omaha, Neb.

Associated Press

and reported symptoms rather than diagnostic tests. Much remains to be learned about OTS.

HOW IS IT TREATED?

OTS may respond to non-surgical treatment and

modifying activity. Taking an extended break, as Manuel did, can relieve symptoms, but relief is usually only temporary. Once exercise is resumed, symptoms can return. □

NFL holding its inaugural General Manager Forum next week

By **ROB MAADDI**
AP Pro Football Writer

The NFL is holding its inaugural General Manager Forum next week in an effort to increase minority hiring in front offices.

The forum, named after Ozzie Newsome, will be held virtually on Monday ahead of the fourth annual Quarterback Coaching Summit. There are only four Black GMs and three Black head coaches in a 32-team league where about 70% of the players are minorities.

"I think it's critical and I'm glad that the league is being intentional about doing it, because all of this work needs to be intentional," longtime NFL executive Scott Pioli said of the GM forum. "In the history of our country, what we've done is we have ... groups of people that have intentionally marginalized folks. So now what we need to do is intentionally create programs and opportunities for people from marginalized groups to advance. So the fact that they're doing this now or we're doing this now as part of the NFL to help people advance and get exposure and get educated and become



In this July 26, 2019, file photo, former Baltimore Ravens general manager Ozzie Newsome speaks during an NFL football news conference in Owings Mills, Md.

Associated Press

better and be mentored is a fantastic initiative by the league."

Pioli is among a list of speakers that includes Newsome, a Pro Football Hall of Fame tight end and the first Black GM in league history.

"I think that it's extremely important for us as a league to recognize his contributions to the game, but also

for him as a way of giving back to those hopefuls that will come behind him," NFL vice president of football operations Natara Holloway said on the AP Pro Football Podcast.

Pioli began his career in the NFL as a pro personnel assistant with the Browns in 1992, a year after Newsome joined Cleveland's front of-

fice. They worked six seasons together in Cleveland and Baltimore. Newsome became Baltimore's GM in 2002. By then, Pioli was New England's vice president of player personnel.

"I have a tremendous Ozzie Newsome story to share with the group next week when we talk about this and to talk about not only the relationship between the head coach and the general manager and owner, but all three of those relationships, because those are three independent relationships of very influential and powerful people with great skills and abilities that have to collaborate," Pioli said.

Baltimore Ravens owner Steve Bisciotti, New York Giants owner John Mara, Buffalo Bills owner Kim Pegula and Black College Football Hall of Fame co-founder James "Shack" Harris also will speak during Monday's sessions.

The participation of owners is noteworthy because ultimately they have final say in hiring.

"It's really important for us because they're the ones who are doing the hiring and the genesis of both events is just making sure that hiring individuals are aware of the talent that's out there so participating

in this event allows for that networking to happen, even if it's virtual," Holloway said.

Pioli, who won three Super Bowls as a personnel boss with the Patriots, said owner involvement in hiring varies from team to team. He also worked for the Jets, Chiefs and most recently served as assistant GM for the Falcons from 2014-19.

"Some owners take more ownership, so to speak, in the process than others but it does come down to the owners," he said. "Decisions about who they listen to is what's most important. Are they listening to their general manager or are you listening to a family member or are they listening to the president or someone on the business side? So there's a lot of people with information coming to the owners, helping them make that decision, which is why this is really important now, too, because generally speaking and historically is most people in those positions of power look like me and they look like the owners. So they, generally speaking, don't have a great deal of proximity or circle of friends outside of people that don't look like them. So very often the people that are brought to owners or the people that are talked about with owners are people that look like them."

The two-day coaching event follows the GM forum and features various topics including how to build a coaching staff and winning culture, the qualities of a head coach, as well as provide networking opportunities for career advancement.

Buccaneers coach Bruce Arians, Patriots coach Bill Belichick, Chiefs coach Andy Reid, Falcons owner Arthur Blank and Steelers President Art Rooney II are among the speakers scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday.

Arians won a Super Bowl last season with the most diverse staff in league history. Tampa Bay has three Black coordinators and two female assistants. □

Shohei Ohtani to hit in All-Star Home Run Derby



Los Angeles Angels' Shohei Ohtani watches his solo home run against the Oakland Athletics during the eighth inning of a baseball game in Oakland, Calif., Tuesday, June 15, 2021.

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Japanese two-way sensation Shohei Ohtani will compete in the All-Star Home Run Derby at Denver's Coors Field on July

12. The Los Angeles Angels star will be the first Japanese-born player in the derby, held the night before the All-Star Game.

The 26-year-old outfielder, designated hitter and pitcher has 19 home runs, three behind major league leaders Fernando Tatis Jr. of San Diego and Vladimir Guerrero Jr. of Toronto. Ohtani is hitting .270 with 47 RBIs, and he is 3-1 with a 2.70 ERA in 10 starts. Ohtani won Japan's home run derby in 2016, when he also was MVP of the second of Japan's two All-Star Games.

He will become the seventh Angels player in the derby, after Wally Joyner (1996), Troy Glaus (2001), Garrett Anderson (2003), Vladimir Guerrero (2007), Mark Trumbo (2012) and Albert Pujols (2015). Anderson and Guerrero won the competition, and Joyner was a co-winner. □